



# At Least I Have My Soul



sold-piece-by-piece

all-knowledge

destructive-when-incomplete

305 47 32

## Chapter 1 by -

The gods were afraid of defeat. In order to preserve their knowledge, they gave to one man a daughter. The girl would possess all information. Every molecule of her body would contain valuable treasures of the god's minds. Answers to everything in life.

They had chosen Lasahn, the humble keeper of the strong tower Aksei. He was told only to raise the girl as his own child. They did not tell him her true worth. But with the girl, they gave him a letter which was not to be opened until her sixteenth birthday. It contained a message about the child's value.

But with the knowledge of Alyna's worth, came the changing of character. Lasahn began to look at the young woman as a way to make money...

## Chapter 2 by Phantim



5 years later...

"Look you little /bitch," he said slapping the girl hard across the face. "I don't care what he asks, or how many people will die because of the answer. If he pays, you talk!"

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"He wanted to know --" the young girl is interrupted as he clutches her in the mouth.

"Are you deaf brat? I told you to shut your mouth and listen. Now you get back in there and give him whatever answer he wants!"

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"No," she whimpered.

Rage flashed across the man's face and he kicked the little girl into a wall. Blackness swirled in her vision and she passed out.

The next day she was sitting in her chair. Lasahn had made her wear the veil again today to hide her bruises. Before he sat another customer. A new one this time, come to ask her a question after paying a hefty sum of gold for the answer. The man in front of her was young, maybe 19. He had dusty blonde hair, and twinkling grey eyes. The corner of his lip was always upturned like he was thinking about a joke he'd heard long ago.

"You may ask your question," Alyna announced.

"Do you want to leave this place, Alyna?" he asked.

### Chapter 3 by Julia\_Stallings



Her eyes shifted over to over to Lasahn, thankful now, for the veil. It kept him from seeing the glimmer of hope in her eyes. Lasahn stormed over to where the man was standing.

"What's it to you?" he exclaimed loudly, rage splayed across his face.

"Well that is my business, not yours, I paid to ask my question and I should expect an answer." he replied calmly.

Alayna smiled under her veil- she was beginning to like this man.

"Why yes, I would," she said in her sweetest voice. Instantly she knew that was a mistake. Lasahn spun on his heel, his face so contorted with anger, she knew what was coming. Closing her eyes, she waited for the blows to land, but they didn't. She peered up but Lasahn wasn't there. Just the man standing there, casually examining a painting on the wall and though she studied his face, she could not read his expression. He turned towards her.

"Then let's go."

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Chapter 4 by Maria\_Domin

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She looked around, looking for Lasahn. He wasn't there.

"W-Where's Lasahn..?" Alayna whispered. She was afraid of the man now. She was about to leave the place she have knew as home her whole life. The man gave her a coy smile.

"Trust me," he extended a hand to her. Alayna stared at the hand and took it. This was it. She was risking her life for this man.. An oddly perplexing man. He pulled her up from her seat, their faces now almost touching each other's. He slowly lifted up Alayna's veil, a small cocky smirk showing.

Alayna's breath froze. Nobody has ever seen her true face besides Lasahn. "Beautiful," the man's breath hitched. Alayna was lost in his dull, but yet beautiful, eyes.

Suddenly, the man snapped out of it, and pulled Alayna out. They ran out of the building and into the sun that hasn't touched Alayna's face in ages.

"Why do you want me out of there?" she breathed out, and coolly turned to look at the man. All she got in return was a cocky smile. He winked at her, and he led her to a car. They got in, and the man quickly started the vehicle. They rode the road in silence. "Where are you taking me to?" Alayna broke the silence.

"Enough with the questions, you'll find out soon enough," he chuckled.

"Last one," she turned to look at the handsome man. "What's your name?" The man bit his lip, and turned to look at Alayna.

"Rylen."

## Chapter 5 by Jonathan



"Rylen" Alayna thought to herself.

The ride was long winding and bumpy. She had never been in a car before so it was a very new experience. She was admiring the design and pushing the buttons on the dash, turning the radio on and off, when he stopped the car at a dead end.

"Where are we?" Alayna asked. "The road goes no where," she was just responded by that smirk again and Rylen said, "You'll see."

As they drove on, a wall in front of the car rose up over head and he started up the car again and said, "But every thing has only one solution" as they descended into the wide hole. The car kept driving through the passage way as suddenly Rylen turned the wheel and made the car face the wall.

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"What are you doing?" Alyna asked suddenly worried.

"Just, trust me." Rylen responded as he pressed down on the accelerator and rushed toward the wall as Alyna screamed in his ear. The car passed without any contact through the wall and proceeded to drive through what looked like a cave to Alyna. All the while Rylen was laughing hysterically as Alyna punched him in the arm.

"What was that for?" The asked confused.

"I THOUGHT I WAS GOING TO DIE!" Alyna yelled as she punched him again.

"Haha, it's fine, most people think that their first time." He said chuckling.

"Most people?" Alyna thought as the narrow cave widened to reveal a ginormous room filled with strange machines with people sitting by them. Then every person in the room looked over to the approaching vehicle as Rylen honked the horn.

## Chapter 6 by clearskyy



Rylen parked the car.

"Just give me a second" he said before disappearing. Apparently making things appear and disappear was one of Rylen's favorite party tricks. Although perplexing it wasn't the strangest thing Alyna has seen. When you're imbued with the power of all knowledge of the Gods you tend to encounter unusual things. Rylen on the other hand remained a mystery.

She hesitantly exited the vehicle and looked around at the people busying themselves with the various machines around the room. As she was beginning to feel abandoned and uncomfortable she heard a familiar voice right beside her that gave her a jolt.

"Here, have something to eat" Rylen was right next to her taking a bite out of an apple and he held a tray in the other hand with various breakfast foods.

"Where did you get this?"

"Oh, the kitchen?"

"This place has a kitchen?"

"Well, no!"

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"Did you just steal this from someone else's house?! How did you even manage that? Is this safe?"

"I took it from Axius' place, he's always got the best eats" he said with a smile. "It would be strange of me to drag you all the way here and then poison you now"

Axius be damned the food did smell devilishly good and Alyna wasn't in the mood to control her already contorting stomach.

"Where does Axius live exactly?"

"Roughly across the city."

"You went across the city for breakfast, that's not some small feat I might add"

"Just the perks of being a Demigod I suppose"

"So you move really fast?"

"Teleport. One person at a time though, that limit is why I got the wheels. I can't have you turning into assorted mangled pieces of flesh just yet, let's not go into how I found that out. Look, that's not what's important what *is* important is the real reason I brought you here."

"There was an actual reason besides capturing a damsel in distress? How did you even know where to find me in the first place?"

"Look at you with the questions. First thing's first the Lasahn you've been living with wasn't your actual guardian, the actual Lasahn isn't that weak of man to abuse his only daughter. Most likely he's been captured and possibly tortured all these years, I'm not the only one who's been looking for you."

"You're telling me I've never met my actual father?" Alyna was feeling completely overwhelmed and suddenly food was becoming nearly repulsive as her heart raced and the pit in her stomach grew at an alarming rate.

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"Your father is the key to the world"

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"And I'm supposed to save him? I'm not exactly the strongest if you haven't noticed" She said looking away embarrassed remembering the bruises that were clearly showing on her face.

"*We're* going to get him and you don't need to worry, we'll keep you safe".

Being around Rylen had given her a strange sense of comfort and safety that she hadn't realized that a small group of people were approaching.

"No need to worry, Kitten they're with me"

"*Kitten?* I hope that nickname doesn't stick" she thought to herself.

### Chapter 7 by -



Three men and two women walked up to Rylen. They all exchanged hand shakes and greetings.

"This is the girl, Ayna." Rylen introduced me, waving his arm in her direction.

Ayna stepped forward and gave a slight curtsy. "A pleasure to meet you!" She smiled graciously.

Rylen lead her back to the car and told her to stay there for a few minutes. Then he went back and began talking in hushed tones to the group of people. "This is the one I was telling you about. I finally got her away from Lasahn, but now out duty is to find her father."

They continued to discuss various plans and theories. After some time, the group broke up, each one splitting and leaving in a different direction.

"Ayna, we have reached a consensus. We shall all travel under the cover of night, to Rachni." Rylen started the engine.

"What! But why, I mean... I would not be safe there." Ayna shook her head worriedly. The Land of the Thieves was no place she wished to journey to. Especially as one so sought after.

Rylen began driving back down the curvy road. "It's not only hope. We have reason to believe that your father is there."

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Chapter 8 by -

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As they traversed closer and closer to Rachni, the foul smell of burning flesh become more unbearable. The cluster of small fires in the distance kept them alert to the fact that the guards were still awake.

But the smoke arising from the town below was making it difficult to see where they walked.

With Ayna in hand, Rylen attempted to shield his face with his arm held in front of him. "I think it may be safer to wait until we have more visibility." He whispered to the others, who were squinting in pain.

The group agreed and sat behind a large boulder. But they were unaware of an intruder.

"Hands up!" A man stepped forward from the swirling ash. "I know who you are, so don't make any trouble and head to Lord Sahn..."

They had no choice but to follow as armed men came from the smoke and surrounded them. Ayna was taken by one of the men. "Yes... We have been waiting for you." The man said, softly touching her chin.

As they neared the main confine, shrieks of shock were heard as six people fell to the ground. In a matter of seconds, the path below Ayna was saturated in blood. Each of her companions were lying dead about her. Steam rising from their pierced bodies. Rylen gasped "Save yourself!" before choking on the crimson fluid which dripped from his mouth.

Ayna screamed and then burst into tears of fright. Her guard jabbed his fingers into her back and grinned triumphantly. "Hurry up, *he* mustn't be left waiting."

As she stepped into a metal dome, three men rushed forward and shackled her. A tall, robed person stepped up to her and smiled. "I have you at last! Fear not my little dear, the world shall soon know of your sacrifice!"

He chuckled under his breath. As he took his fist and knocked Ayna to the icy floor.

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